

## Honoring the Gold Star Mothers

**Sacramento-** Lt. Governor John Garamendi Today Issued the Following Statement:

"Each year on the last Sunday of September, Americans pause to honor a very special group of patriots, the Gold Star Mothers. The Gold Star Mother's Club was established shortly after World War I to provide support to those mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. That tradition is very much alive today, and has gained renewed importance as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue to take their toll on America's families.

The name, "Gold Star Mothers" came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The flag carried a star for each family member serving in the armed forces. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Many brave California men and women are currently serving our country in harm's way and many of their homes display this flag of honor. Let us keep these special families in our prayers and remember them, not only today, but each day of the year."